So far, 47 out of 73 coastal police stations have been made operational in Gujarat (10), Andhra Pradesh (6), West Bengal (4), Goa (3), Kerala (1), Maharashtra (12), Karnataka (5), Puducherry (1), Lakshadweep (4) and Daman (1) by making premises and trained manpower available. All the coastal States and UTs have sanctioned the executive posts for coastal police stations.

Dealing with sophisticated weapons with Maoists

686. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Maoists have acquired sophisticated weapons like LMG, Mortar Launchers, SLRs and A.K. 47 etc. and have raided Police headquarters and CRPF campus etc. several times during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents by Maoists and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has ever tried to find out the actual source of the acquisition of such arms by Maoists and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to plug those sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) As per information available, Maoists have sophisticated weapons.

32 battalions of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and 1 battalion of State Armed Police on inter-State depution are currently deployed on anti-naxalite duties for assisting various State police forces. In 2006, there were 232 encounters between the CRPF and the naxalites, and 81 incidents of attacks on the CRPF by the naxalites. In 2007, there were 184 encounters between the CRPF and the naxalites, and 77 incidents of attacks on the CRPF by the naxalites.

Naxalites primarily get a substantial bulk of their weapons by looting. They also get them from illicit weapons manufacturing units. Law and order being a State subject, action in this regard is taken by the concerned State Government. State Governments maintain close vigil in this respect, and also conduct Intelligence-based operations against naxalite hideouts and illicit weapon manufacturing units.

Increase in cases of illicit drugs

687. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase of 50 per cent in the cases registered for transporting illicit drugs as compared to last year;

(b) whether there is an increase in the quantum of the contraband seized by the Narcotic Control Bureau this year; and

(c) the steps taken to effectively bring down the increase in such incidents and to control it?